

mainstays of a proud and historic community. However, the Chamber's extensive catalog of events engages with all sorts of communities. Its organization and sponsorship of events like the annual Halloween parade, a weekly Foodie Friday that promotes local restaurants, and the SantaCaliGon Days Festival bring joy and warm memories to those fortunate enough to call Independence home. And as the current public health crisis continues to pose unprecedented challenges and difficult decisions to small businesses, the Independence Chamber of Commerce has risen to meet the moment. It has reimagined how to help local businesses and continues to serve as a vital resource for those navigating the narrow waters between a struggling economy and a lethal virus. Additionally, the Chamber's concerted effort to spread awareness about various COVID-19 relief funds has been the difference, for many family-owned businesses, between surviving a difficult year and being forced to close. In short, the Chamber's work has ensured that President Truman's hometown continues to grow and prosper.

However, the Chamber's work extends far beyond Independence city limits. Its annual lobbying day in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. helps promote the policies necessary for robust business growth and economic development not only in the great state of Missouri, but across the entire country. And as this year has placed a renewed and long-overdue emphasis on community-owned broadband service, affordable quality housing, and neighborhood inclusivity, the Chamber has been an effective advocate for many of the issues that inspired me to run for City Council, for Mayor, and then for Congress. Through their advocacy, the Chamber has initiated and supported several infrastructure development and neighborhood revitalization projects that have benefitted a broad coalition of communities. It recognizes that policies that are good for hardworking individuals in all kinds of communities are also good for businesses, and I look forward to our continued partnership as we support Missouri families. But as I mentioned, it is not just the Chamber's policies, but also its presence, that have tangible positive effects on the district I represent.

With every educational seminar, a small business owner gains an opportunity to innovate and incorporate new ways to grow their business. With every networking event, the Chamber connects leaders who can collaborate and form symbiotic partnerships that benefit all of us. With every ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony, the Chamber offers a business the vital publicity and web of support needed to grow and succeed. Running a business is hard. But for one hundred years, the Independence Chamber has made it easier for the aspirational among us to capitalize on the same entrepreneurial spirit that made the American economy the envy of the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating the current and former staff members who have organized the daily activities of the Independence Chamber of Commerce, as well as all the past and present members of the Chamber's Board of Directors, who have served as dutiful stewards of this thriving organization. The Independence Chamber of Commerce has brought together entrepreneurs and served as a stalwart of growth and resiliency for the past one hundred

years. I have no doubt that they will continue this important work over the next century and beyond.

IN RECOGNITION OF KAREN
MC CARTHY'S 37 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PETER MEIJER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and service of longtime Michigan resident, Mrs. Karen McCarthy.

After 37 years, Mrs. McCarthy begins a well-deserved retirement after decades of public service to our local communities, and she will certainly be missed by the countless West Michiganders that she has helped and worked alongside over these many years. Mrs. McCarthy worked in community affairs for Consumers Energy and she most recently served as Community Affairs Manager in Kent County, based in Grand Rapids. In that role, she was responsible for local government and community relations, charitable giving, and economic development throughout Kent County.

It is difficult to overstate Mrs. McCarthy's connection to our community. Along with her work at Consumers Energy, she has served on numerous local committees and spent her personal time volunteering with organizations dedicated to combatting poverty and empowering women and girls. Her compassionate spirit, service to the public, and strong work ethic have made her an essential piece of West Michigan society.

Mrs. McCarthy's passion for serving others and dedication to her community have left a lasting impact, and we hope that her example will inspire younger generations to feel a similar call to public service. We wish her a joyful and peaceful retirement with her family and friends, and we remain grateful for her contributions that have improved the lives of so many of her fellow West Michiganders.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in commending Mrs. McCarthy for her service and her long career helping the people of the great state of Michigan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALEXIS
PAULSEN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alexis Grace (Hauck) Paulsen, the daughter of Toby Hauck, President of the Air Traffic Controllers Local ZAU and an Illinois resident.

Alexis Grace (Hauck) Paulsen was born September 14, 1992, at Scott AFB, Illinois and died Monday, January 18, 2021, in Clare, Illinois, at the age of 28.

Alexis graduated from Hiawatha High School in 2011 in Kirkland, IL. Throughout high school Alexis participated in volleyball, basketball, softball and FFA. She was a member of the County Progressors 4-H Club and

showed livestock at the Boone County Fair. After graduation, she took classes at Kishwaukee College. Alexis was a member of Hillcrest Covenant Church in DeKalb.

Alexis enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She loved meeting new people. She married Matthew on May 23, 2015. They spent their married life in Clare where she thrived in maintaining a loving home for her husband and sons. Her favorite thing in life was being a stay at home mom to her two boys.

Alexis is survived by her husband, Matthew; sons, Fredrick and Franklin; parents, Lori Jackson and Derrick Lander, Toby and Darla Hauck; parents-in-law, Jeff and Lauri Paulsen; brother, Dylan (Jasmine) Hauck; brothers-in-law, Tim (Cassie) Paulsen and Chris (Katie) Paulsen; nieces, Makayla Hauck, Olivia, Nola, and Brielle Paulsen; grandparents, Ann Carrel, Roger and Marilyn Jackson, Fred and Barb Hauck, Leanna Kacmarek, Betty Paulsen, Carol and Terry Dyer, and David and Eena Lundberg; and 16 aunts and uncles. Alexis is preceded in death by her grandfathers, Mort Carrel and Adolph Paulsen.

My deepest condolences to the Paulsen and Hauck families. This is indeed a tragic time, but also a time of reflection and hope. I am often reminded, "the pain you feel today is the strength you feel tomorrow. For every challenge encountered, there is opportunity for growth and healing." May the Lord give you that strength during this time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RONALD
FRANCIS DWYER

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and remember the life of Ronald Francis Dwyer, who passed away on December 24, 2020, at the age of 77 after an eight-year battle with cancer.

Born in Edwards, Illinois in 1943, Ron displayed natural gravitation towards community and teaching. Ron worked in education for 46 years as a teacher/counselor, coach, and principal for Spalding High School, Limestone High School, East Peoria High School, Notre Dame High School, Armstrong Oakview Grade School in East Peoria, Paul Bolin Grade School in East Peoria and Central Junior High School in East Peoria. After he retired from 23 years in public schools and 23 years in private schools, Ron began serving for three years as a bailiff for the Peoria County Court House. Ron spent 21 years as a sports official in basketball, baseball, and football. Ron is a member of the Peoria Sports Officials Hall of Fame.

Ron was a man of deep faith and a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Kickapoo, Illinois, where he belonged to Bishop Rosati Council of the Knights of Columbus. Ron's devout service awarded him the PRO Ecclesia ET Pontific Medallion from the Diocese of Peoria in 2000, the Peoria Notre Dame Foundation award in 2004, and the Alumni of the Year Award in 2017. The religious values and foundation of faith instilled through Ron's teachings will continue to strengthen our community for years to come.